

## MEMORANDUM

January 12, 2018

TO: Board Members

FROM: Richard A. Carranza  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2017**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, (713) 556-6700

The SAT results for the graduating class of 2017 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. The SAT exam was redesigned in March 2016 and consists of two subjects: Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Math. While some students from the Class of 2017 took the old version of the SAT, the vast majority took the new version. Because comparing the redesigned exam with prior versions is problematic, performance results in this report only include the Class of 2017 on the redesigned exam.

Key findings include:

- The number of students who took the redesigned SAT from the Class of 2017 is 9,461. If students from the Class of 2017 who took the old version of the SAT were included, the number of testers is 9,640. This total number of testers is higher than the number of testers from the Class of 2016 (9,563).
- The percentage of students tested has dropped steadily since 2012 reaching a six-year low of 85 percent for the Class of 2017. Even with the students who took the old version of the SAT, the participation rate is 87 percent, which is still lower than the participation rates from the past six years.
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2017 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the nation although HISD students belonging to the Asian or Pacific Islander and White groups scored higher on average than their state- and nationwide counterparts.
- Twenty-five percent of the HISD students tested from the Class of 2017 met both the ERW and math college-ready benchmarks, which is lower than the state (38 percent) and nation (46 percent).

### **Administrative Response**

The district is committed to providing access to opportunities for students, offering a school day SAT that ensures that all students in the district have access to an assessment that is required by many colleges and universities for admission. The Office of College and Career Readiness is offering a number of additional supports to schools and students to build upon the successes of previous years. We anticipate that the Class of 2018 will see increases in their scores due to a district wide push to encourage students to use Khan Academy, which a College Board study shows is an effective, free, personalized test preparation tool that can increase a students' performance when regularly used. Because this was the first administration of the redesigned PSAT, next year will be the first opportunity to compare performance between years for this revised assessment. The Office of College and Career Readiness will continue to support campuses with implementing Khan Academy on their campuses, provide incentive programs for

students and schools to use the tool, and deploy a group of Khan Ambassadors, current students who have successfully used the tool, to promote Khan Academy to their peers. District and school administration will also be provided with Khan Academy usage reports in order to frequently monitor and support the initiative. Additionally, the district is increasing its levels of support for students who attend virtual schools, working closely with administration to make the exam accessible for students even if they do not reside near a testing site during the school day administration.

Additionally, recent changes by the College Board will also aid the district to strategically increase participation and success of the school day SAT administration. The district is now able to bulk register students for the SAT and PSAT, which eliminates the barrier of a student having to pre-register in advance in order to test on the day of the administration. The College Board has also recently implemented improvements to the testing accommodations for English Language Learners and Special Education students, which we anticipate will provide a more supportive testing experience for students.

The district is also promoting additional venues for students to meet state college readiness benchmarks (and thereby avoid having to take remedial level courses in college). These include the ACT and Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA). The College and Career Readiness Division is looking into the possibility of administering the TSI college placement exam to eligible students during the school year and providing support and resources to students so that they can prepare for the exam. Similarly, the district is examining data to assess the potential benefits of administering the ACT to additional students. The ultimate goal is to provide students with multiple pathways for them to demonstrate college and career readiness.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Carla Stevens in Research and Accountability at (713) 556-6700.



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Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports  
Area Superintendents  
School Support Officers  
High School Principals  
Rick Cruz  
Annie Wolfe



# RESEARCH

Educational Program Report

**SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2017**



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# SAT Results: Class of 2017

## Executive Summary

### Program Description

The SAT is a college admissions exam that assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed in high school coursework. Colleges and universities use SAT scores to influence admissions decisions, recruit students, and predict performance in college courses. The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2017 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. In March 2016, the College Board administered the first redesigned SAT exam that included two sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and math. While a few students from the Class of 2017 took the old version of the SAT, the vast majority took the new version. Because comparing the redesigned exam with prior versions is problematic, performance data are only included for the Class of 2017 on the redesigned exam.

### Highlights

- The number of students who took the redesigned SAT from the Class of 2017 is 9,461. If students from the Class of 2017 who took the old version of the SAT were included, the number of testers is 9,640. This total number of testers is higher than the number of testers from the Class of 2016 (9,563). However, since comparing the old and new versions of the SAT is problematic, this report only includes data for students who took the new SAT.
- The percentage of students tested has dropped steadily since 2012 reaching a six-year low of 85 percent for the Class of 2017. Even with the students who took the old version of the SAT, the participation rate is 87 percent, which is still lower than the participation rates from the past six years.
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2017 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the nation.
- For the Class of 2017, HISD students belonging to the Asian or Pacific Islander and White groups scored higher on average than their counterparts across the state and nation.
- Twenty-five percent of HISD students tested from the Class of 2017 met both the ERW and math college-ready benchmarks, which is lower than the state (38 percent) and nation (46 percent).

## Introduction

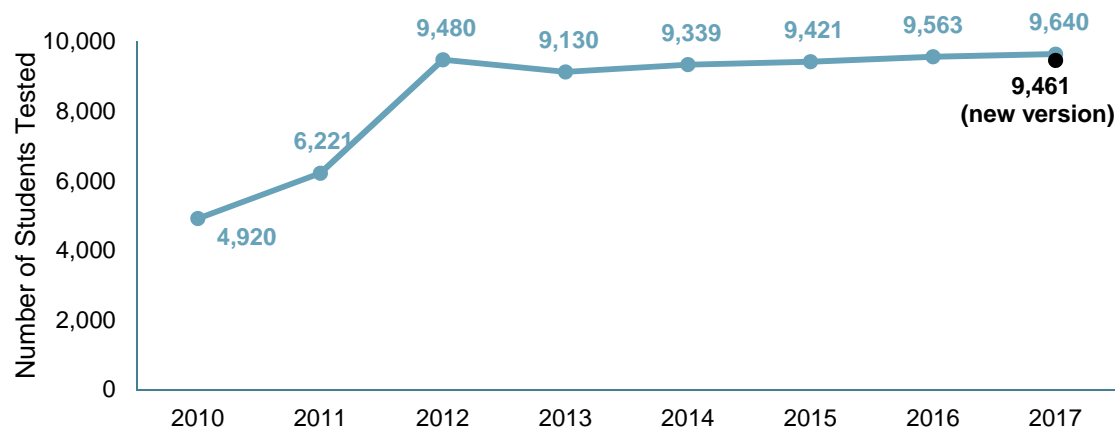
The SAT is a college admissions exam that assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed in high school coursework. Colleges and universities use SAT scores to influence admissions decisions, recruit students, and predict performance in college courses. The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2017 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. In March 2016, the College Board administered the first redesigned SAT exam that included two sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and math. Each subject is scored on a scale that ranges from a minimum of 200 to a maximum of 800. The highest composite score a student can earn is 1600. While a few students from the Class of 2017 took the old version of the SAT, the vast majority took the new version. Because comparing the redesigned exam with prior versions is problematic, performance data are only included for the Class of 2017 on the redesigned exam. Students are included in the graduating class of the year they reported intending to graduate when taking the SAT, regardless of when they took the SAT test. This report includes students' latest (i.e., most recent) test score, not necessarily their highest score.

## Results

### SAT Participation

Beginning in spring 2011, Houston ISD partnered with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and College Board to allow students to take the SAT during a school day at their home campus at no cost to the student. This increased SAT participation rates across the district by reducing the financial, logistical, and emotional burden on students and their families. **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** (p. 3) illustrate district-wide SAT participation.

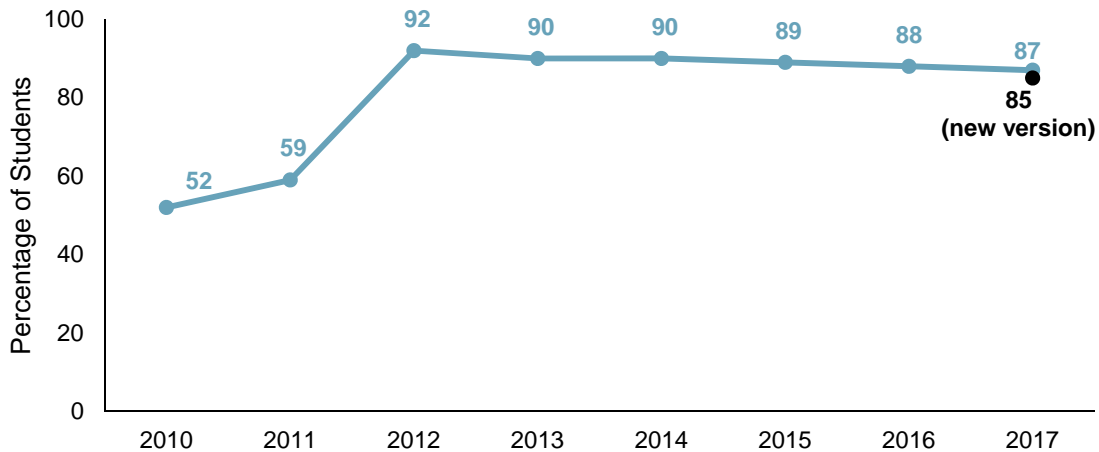
**Figure 1. HISD SAT Exam Participation, Classes of 2010–2017**



Sources: HISD Research and Accountability Department, SAT Results: Class of 2015; College Board District Highlights Report, 2016 College-Bound Seniors; 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District

Note: Participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT with the new version testers shown in black.

**Figure 2. HISD SAT Exam Participation Rate, Classes of 2010–2017**



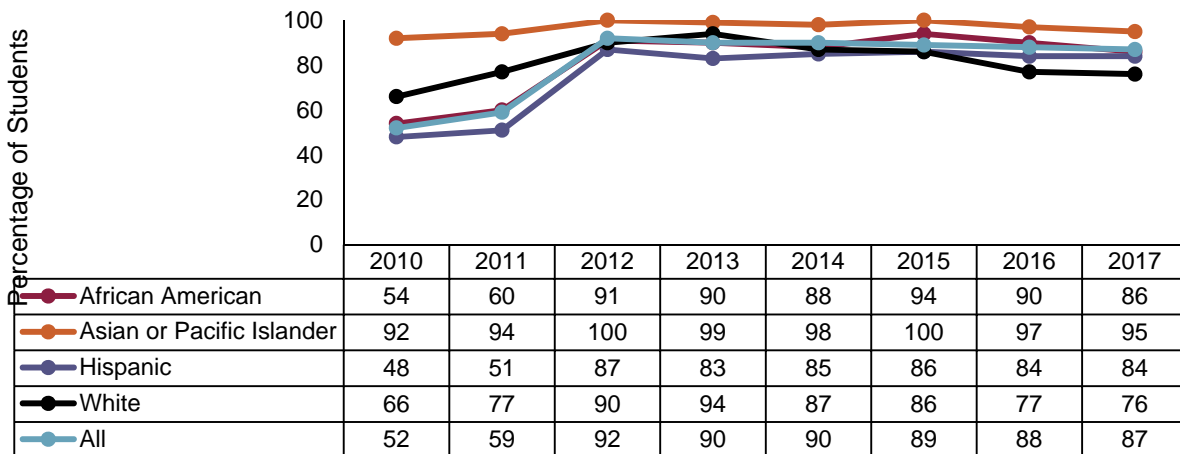
Sources: HISD Research and Accountability Department, SAT Results: Class of 2016; 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District; PEIMS, 2010–2017

Note: Participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT with the new version testers shown in black.

- The number of students from the Class of 2017 who took the new version of the SAT is 9,461 (Figure 1). If students from the Class of 2017 who took the old version of the SAT were included, the number of testers is 9,640.
- The percentage of students tested has dropped steadily since 2012 reaching a six-year low (Figure 2).

**Figure 3** shows the HISD SAT participation rate by student group. Participation rates for each group were determined by dividing the number of students within the group who took the SAT by the number of seniors within the group.

**Figure 3. HISD SAT Participation Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2010–2017**



Sources: HISD Research and Accountability Department, SAT Results: Class of 2016; 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District; PEIMS, 2010–2017

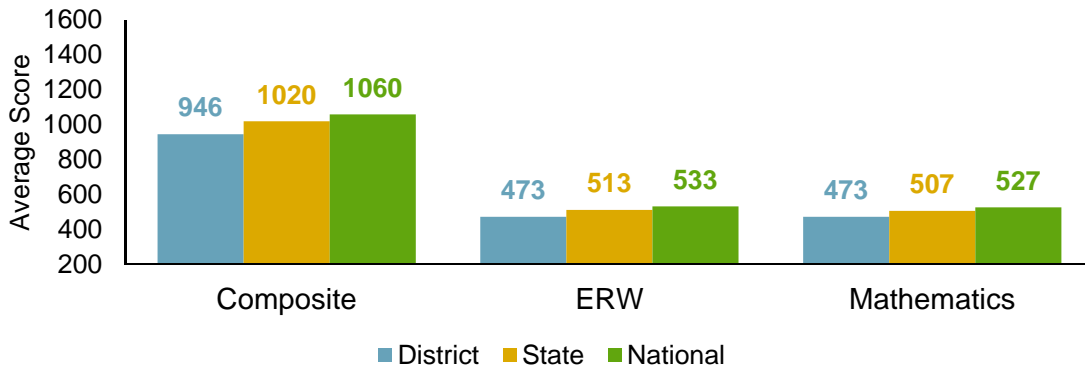
Note: Participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT.

- From the Classes of 2016 to 2017, the percentage tested dropped for all race/ethnicity groups shown except for the Hispanic group which stayed the same.

**SAT Performance**

**Figure 4** shows the average score by subject for the Class of 2017. Since the SAT exam was redesigned in March of 2016, making comparisons to prior years is problematic. Performance results in this report reflect only the students tested on the new version.

**Figure 4. Average SAT Scores of District, State, and National Students, Class of 2017**

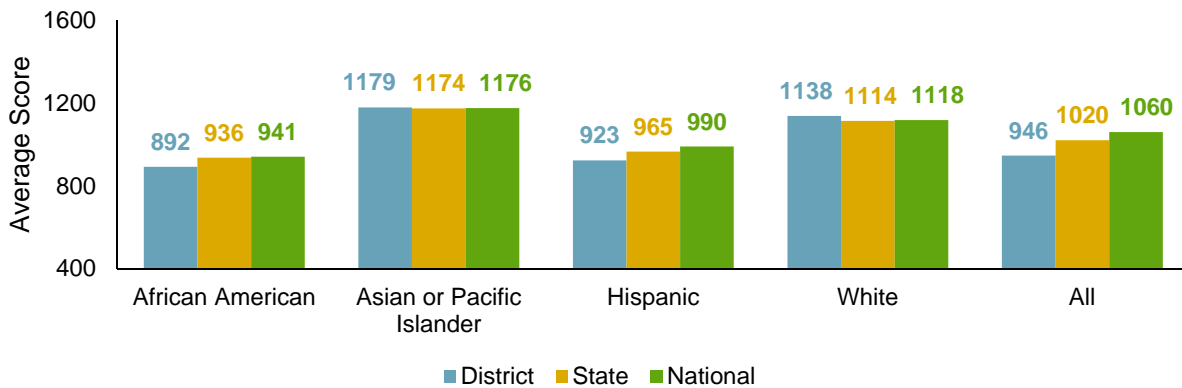


Source: 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: Houston Independent School District

- Average SAT scores among HISD seniors are lower than those of students in Texas and the nation in both ERW and math.

**Figure 5** shows the average composite score by student group for the Class of 2017 for the district, state, and nation.

**Figure 5. Average SAT Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity of District, State, and National Students, Class of 2017**



Sources: 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: Houston Independent School District; 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: State; 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: Total Group

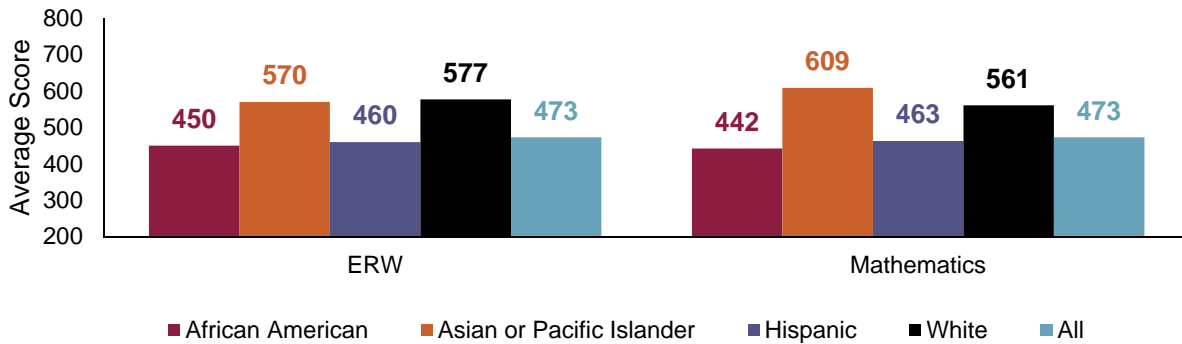
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2017 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the nation.



- For the Class of 2017, HISD students belonging to the Asian or Pacific Islander and White groups scored higher on average than their counterparts across the state and nation.

Figure 6 shows the average SAT scores by subject and student group for HISD’s Class of 2017.

**Figure 6. HISD Average SAT Scores by Subject and Race/Ethnicity, Class of 2017**



Source: 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: Houston Independent School District

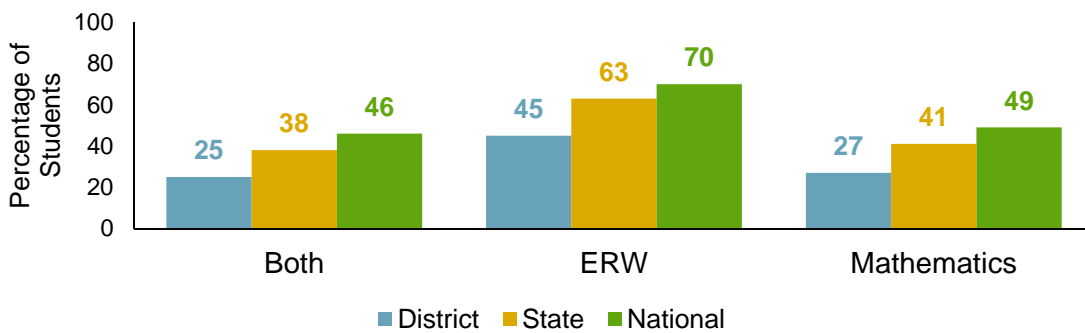
- For the Class of 2017, HISD students belonging to the Asian or Pacific Islander and White groups scored higher on average in both ERW and math compared to the African American and Hispanic groups.

**SAT College Readiness Benchmarks**

The College Board sets benchmark scores to predict students’ chance of success in college. According to the College Board, the SAT Math benchmark is associated with a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, college-level courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus. The SAT ERW benchmark is associated with a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, college-level courses in history, literature, social science, or writing. The benchmark scores of the redesigned SAT exam cannot be compared to the benchmark scores from prior years.

Figure 7 shows the percentage of students in the Class of 2017 from the district, state, and nation who met college-ready benchmarks in ERW, math, and both.

**Figure 7. Percentage of District, State, and National Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks, Class of 2017**

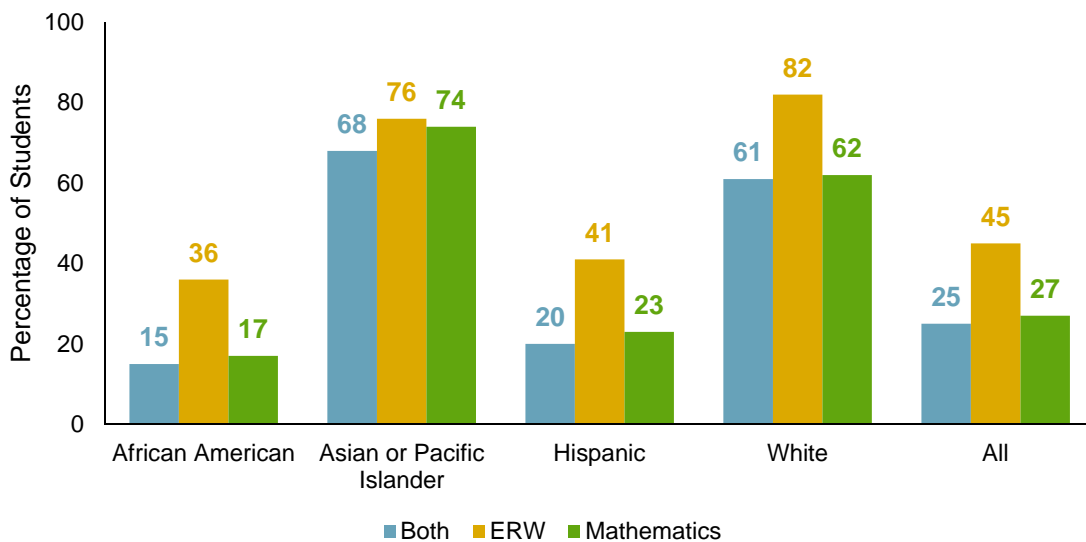


Source: 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: Houston Independent School District

- A higher percentage of HISD students in the Class of 2017 met the college-ready benchmark in ERW (45 percent) compared to math (27 percent).

**Figure 8** shows the percentage of students who met the college-ready benchmarks by subject and student group for HISD’s Class of 2017.

**Figure 8. HISD Percentage of Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks by Student Group, Class of 2017**



Source: 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments: Houston Independent School District

- For the Class of 2017, HISD students belonging to the Asian or Pacific Islander and White groups had a higher percentage of students meeting the college-ready benchmarks in both ERW and math compared to African American and Hispanic groups.

**Table 1** (p. 7) shows the number of students tested, average SAT composite, ERW, and math scores, and percentage of students meeting both the ERW and math college-ready benchmarks by campus. Due to the redesigned SAT exam, performance for the Class of 2017 cannot be compared to prior classes.

- Milby HS, Texas Connections, and Lamar HS had the greatest increases in the number of seniors taking the SAT, with increases of 59, 49, and 44 students, respectively.
- DeBakey HS had the highest average composite score at 1346, followed closely by Carnegie Vanguard HS with an average composite score of 1337.
- Campuses with an average composite score below 800 were Kashmere HS, Middle College Gulfton, North Forest HS, Victory Prep North, Wheatley HS, and Worthing HS.
- DeBakey HS had the highest percentage of students who met both the ERW and math college-ready benchmarks at 100 percent.

Campus	Number Tested			Average	Average ERW	Average Math	%Met Both
	2016	2017 (new version)	Change	Composite Score	Score	Score	Benchmarks
				2017	2017	2017	2017
Austin HS	328	323	-5	855	421	434	7
AVA	0	3	3	*	*	*	*
Beechnut Academy	14	1	-13	*	*	*	*
Bellaire HS	826	728	-98	1099	548	551	54
Carnegie HS	152	128	-24	1337	661	676	98
Challenge ECHS	118	108	-10	1104	560	544	54
Chavez HS	620	573	-47	904	446	457	16
DeBaKey HS	188	148	-40	1346	658	688	100
East EC HS	100	109	9	1090	548	542	50
Eastwood Acad	90	110	20	1087	532	555	58
Energy Institute HS	+	144		1021	513	508	33
E-STEM Central HS	6	12	6	830	413	418	0
E-STEM West HS	55	73	18	943	473	471	19
Furr HS	178	178	0	839	420	419	5
Heights HS	513	484	-29	958	480	478	24
Hou Acad. Intl.	102	91	-11	986	502	484	22
Houston MSTC HS	449	476	27	833	416	416	4
HS for Law and Justice	138	86	-52	979	501	478	22
HS Perf. Vis. Arts	161	162	1	1247	640	608	83
Jones HS	15	7	-8	937	479	459	29
Jordan HS	186	157	-29	854	426	427	11
Kashmere HS	91	81	-10	785	392	393	0
Lamar HS	633	677	44	1030	524	507	39
Leland YMCPA	13	11	-2	998	493	505	18
Liberty HS	30	36	6	804	387	417	6
Long Acad	60	52	-8	961	468	493	19
Madison HS	355	291	-64	845	424	421	4
Mid Coll - Fraga	19	21	2	817	413	404	0
Mid Coll - Gulfton	24	23	-1	798	385	413	0
Milby HS	298	357	59	861	429	431	7
Mount Carmel Acad	89	81	-8	1012	507	505	31
N. Houston ECHS	97	111	14	1040	513	528	43
North Forest HS	180	175	-5	781	393	388	3
Northside HS	323	348	25	859	427	432	7
Reach HS	16	12	-4	876	456	420	8
Scarborough HS	131	133	2	855	425	430	7
Sharpstown HS	282	279	-3	859	427	432	9
Sharpstown Intl	135	129	-6	967	472	495	24
South EC HS	20	19	-1	984	496	487	32
Sterling HS	178	164	-14	820	412	408	5
Tx Conn. Acad	128	177	49	1095	562	533	48
Victory Prep North	---	8		769	396	373	0
Victory Prep South	---	23		862	440	422	0
Waltrip HS	370	334	-36	901	450	450	17
Washington HS	93	126	33	863	424	439	10
Westbury HS	379	368	-11	857	433	424	7
Westside HS	638	664	26	1015	506	509	38
Wheatley HS	126	122	-4	785	393	392	2
Wisdom HS	286	251	-35	849	418	432	7
Worthing HS	100	98	-2	762	383	379	2
Yates HS	194	154	-40	814	412	401	5
YWCPA	36	35	-1	1019	513	506	34
<b>HISD Totals</b>	<b>9,563</b>	<b>9,461</b>	<b>-102</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>25</b>

Sources: College Board 2016 SAT datafile; College Board 2017 SAT datafile

Notes: 2017 data only include those who took the new version of the SAT.

\* Fewer than 5 students tested

+ No seniors in 2016

--- Not part of HISD in 2016

## Conclusion

The number of HISD students from the Class of 2017 who took the new version of the SAT is 9,461. If students who took the old version of the SAT were also included, the number of testers is 9,640, which is higher than the number of testers from the Class of 2016 (9,563). The percentage of students tested has dropped steadily since 2012 reaching a six-year low of 85 percent. Even if the students from the Class of 2017 who took the old version of the SAT were included, the participation rate is 87 percent, which is still lower than the participation rates from the past six years. Further investigation should be done to understand why participation has decreased.

Overall, HISD students from the Class of 2017 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the nation, although HISD students belonging to the Asian or Pacific Islander and White groups scored higher on average compared to their counterparts from the state and nation. Overall, only 25 percent of HISD students tested from the Class of 2017 met both the ERW and math college-ready benchmarks. While the SAT is not the only predictor of college success, this data indicates that much more can be done to help students prepare for college.